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Written on FEBRUARY 9, 2012 AT 9:43 AM by PROSS

# Navy Medicine Facilities Continue to Gain Level 3 Medical Home Port Recognition

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*From U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs*

Fifteen Navy medical facilities have achieved Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home status as designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in the last two months. NCQA Level 3 recognition includes nine standard categories as well as 10 “must pass elements.” Such categories include access and communication; patient tracking and registry functions; care management; performance reporting and improvement; and advanced electronic communication to name a few.

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Story Number: NNS120207-13    Release Date: 2/7/2012 3:46:00 PM

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By Valerie A. Kremer, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy Medicine announced Feb. 7 that 15 Navy medical facilities have achieved Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home status as designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in the last two months.

Naval Health Clinic Quantico, Va., was the first across the entire Department of Defense to be recognized as a Level 3 medical home facility back in December 2011.

"Achieving Patient Centered Medical Home recognition from NCOA signifies that the practice provides a systematic use of the patient-centered, coordinated care management process," said Capt. Maureen Padden, director of the Navy's Medical Home Port Program Management Office at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. "Beneficiaries who receive care at our recognized practices will receive comprehensive, well-coordinated care with reduced wait times to see their provider or team."

NCOA Level 3 recognition includes nine standard categories as well as 10 "must pass elements." Such categories include access and communication; patient tracking and registry functions; care management; performance reporting and improvement; and advanced electronic communication to name a few.

NCOA awards levels of recognition from the scores that practices achieve with Level 3 being the highest. To achieve Level 1 recognition, practices must successfully comply with at least 5 of the elements. Achieving Level 2 or 3 depends on overall scoring and compliance with all 10 "must pass elements."

"We are proud that our clinic was the first facility out of the entire Department of Defense to achieve Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home recognition," said Capt. Mary Elizabeth Neill, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic Quantico, Va. "Our providers and care teams continue to demonstrate world-class care to their patients, which has led to increased patient satisfaction."

There are an additional 38 sites that will seek Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home recognition in 2012, according to Padden. These sites include: Family Practice Clinic in Rota, Spain; Family Medicine Clinic at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Family Practice Clinic at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and Family Practice Clinic in Oak Harbor, Wash.

"To apply for the designation, facilities complete a self survey indicating the level they feel they can achieve to their area of responsibility regional lead," said Padden. "The facility name is then sent to the BUMED Medical Home Port office who determines if they are ready to seek recognition based on the self assessment and observations during site visits by the BUMED team."

The NCOA is a private, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Since its founding in 1900, NCOA has been a central figure in driving improvement throughout the health care system, helping to elevate the issue of health care quality to the top of the national agenda.

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